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Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

DOUG MOENCH / WRITER MIKE ZECK / PENCILER GENE DAY / INKER J. NOVAK / LETTERER ROGER STERN / EDITOR JIM SHOOTER / ED-IN-CHIEF



LS473

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"CLOSER NOW, SLEEP SHIMMERS BEFORE ME... SOFTLY ROLLING WAVES OF SLICK VELVET BLACKNESS... CRESTING IN DARK SPARKLES... GENTLY BREAKING ON MY BROW..."



WHAT'S WRONG, SHANG?

JUST TIRED, LEIKO... LUMPS... IN THE SIDES OF MY THROAT...

UH-OH -- SWOLLEN GLANDS. HOPE YOU'RE NOT GETTING THE FLU, BUT I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED...



"WE BARELY GOT BACK FROM MORDILLO'S ISLAND BEFORE YOU GOT INTO THAT FIGHT ON THE DOCKS AT MALAY JACK'S..."



"... FOLLOWED BY AN EMOTIONAL NEAR-BREAKDOWN-- ENOUGH TO DRAIN THE LIFE OUT OF ANYBODY..."



"... THEN AN ALL-NIGHT DRIVE CAPPED BY A FIGHT WITH ZARAN ON TOP OF THAT TRAIN..."

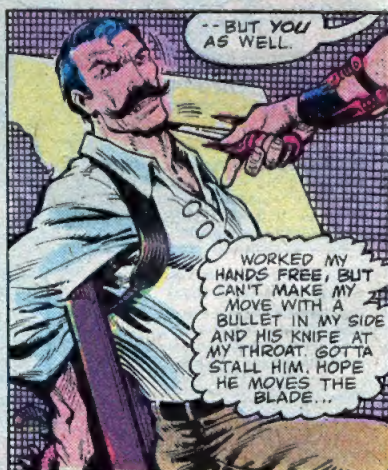
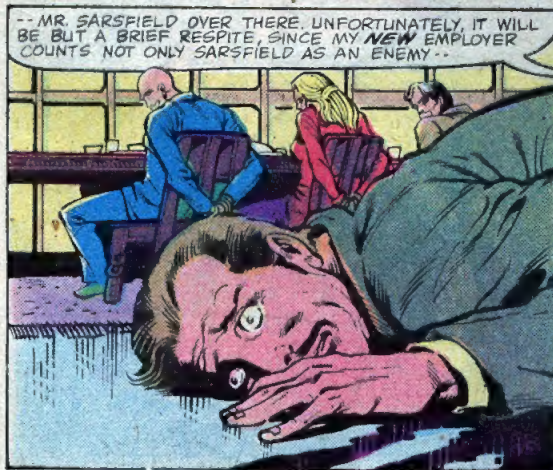
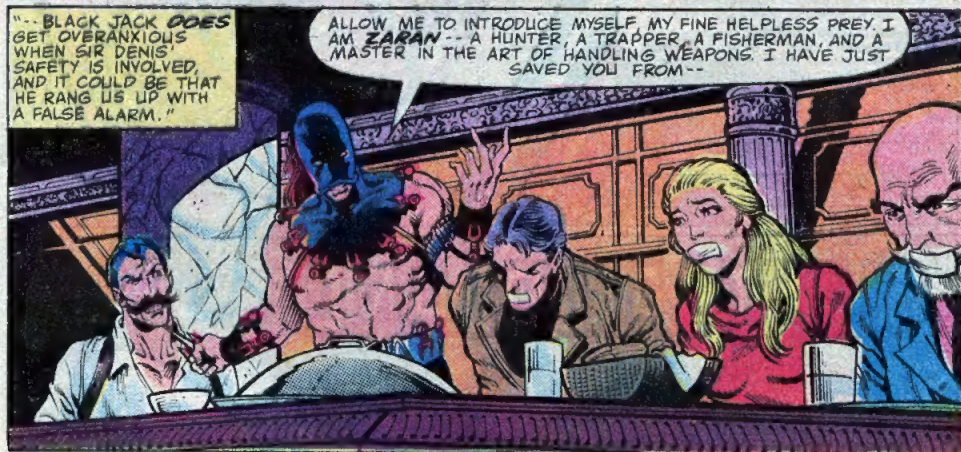


"... AFTER WHICH YOU CARRIED ME SIX KILOMETERS TO THAT INN..."



"... THEN A FRIGID SWIM ACROSS THE LAKE FOR ANOTHER FIGHT WITH ZARAN-- AND NOW ANOTHER NIGHT OF DRIVING, ALL WITHOUT ANY SLEEP."





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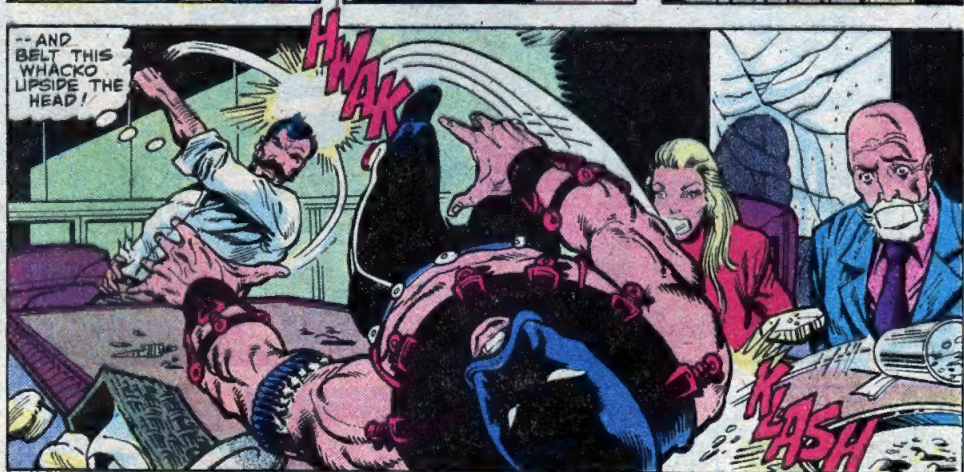
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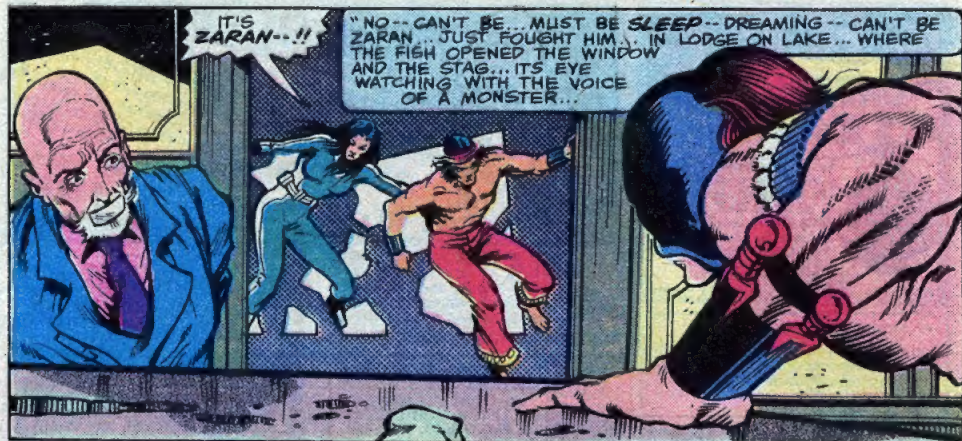
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"... MAKE HIM STRIKE DOWN HIS COUNTRY'S AGENCY OF DEFENSE WHICH IS WORSE THAN MY FATHER..."



"... UP IN THE SNOW LIKE PHANTOM SAND HISsing AND MELTING..."



"... WITH LEIKO AS IN A DREAM OF COLD COLD SLEEP..."



WELL, WHAT'S WRONGS WITH YOU TWO?! TAKE HIM! I CAN'T HELP YOU-- MY SIDE...



"LEIKO FOLDS, A PUPPET HAS SOMEONE CUT HER STRINGS?"

MY... MY HEAD-- CONCUSSION FINALLY CATCHING UP TO ME...



"NO... NOT A PUPPET... NOT A DREAM... IT IS A NIGHT-MARE."



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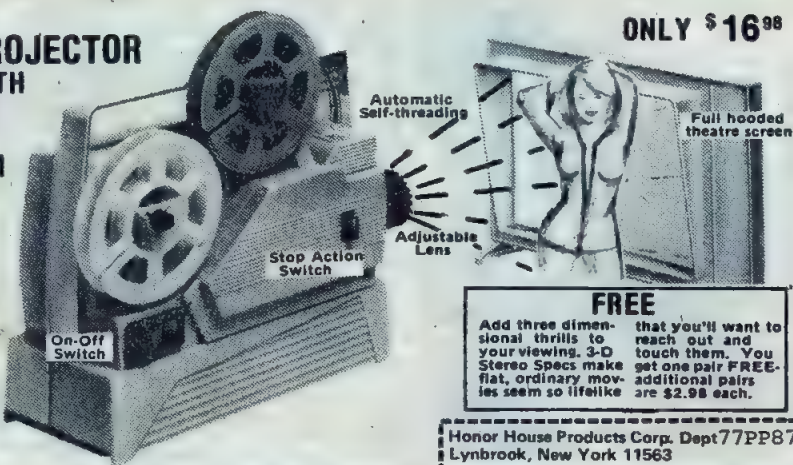


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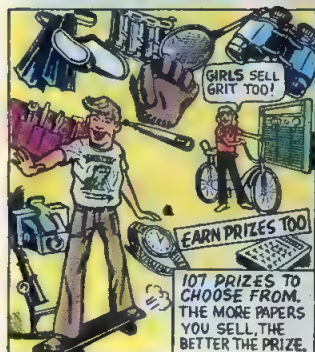
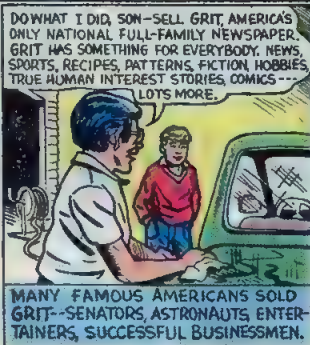
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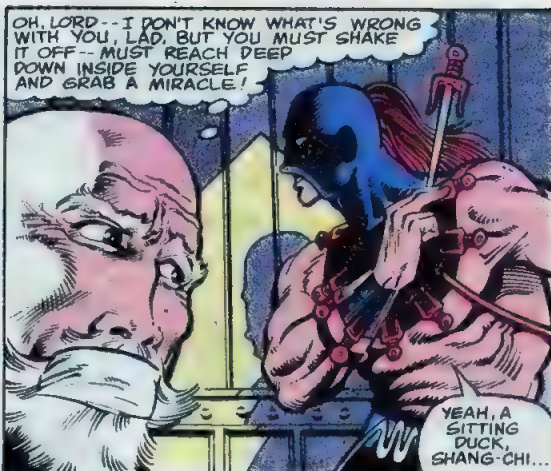
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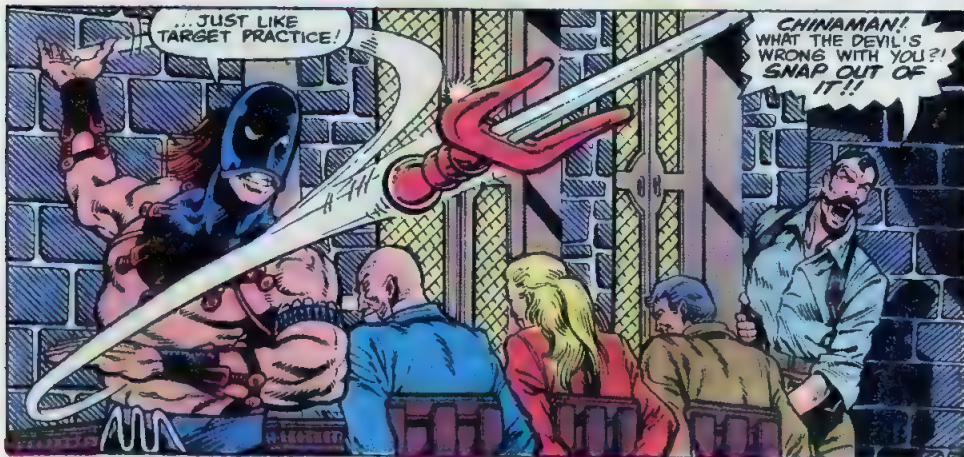


HAH! THEY'RE
DROPPING LIKE
FLIES AND I
HAVEN'T EVEN
LIFTED A FINGER
YET! AND NOW
THE LAST ONE
STANDING IS A
**SITTING
DUCK!**



OH, LORD-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU, LAD, BUT YOU MUST SHAKE
IT OFF-- MUST REACH DEEP
DOWN INSIDE YOURSELF
AND GRAB A MIRACLE!

YEAH, A
SITTING
DUCK,
SHANG-CHI...



... JUST LIKE
TARGET PRACTICE!

CHINAMAN!
WHAT THE DEVIL'S
WRONG WITH YOU?!
**SNAP OUT
OF
IT!!**



"EH? A SLIVER OF
SILVER LIGHT...
MOVING SLOWLY... SO
SLOWLY..."



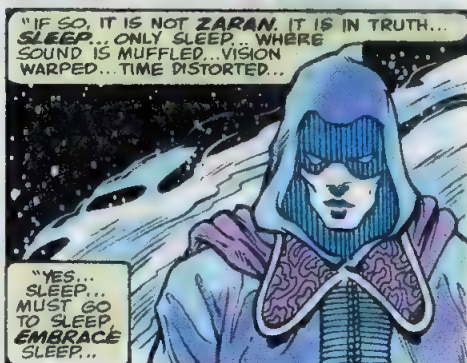
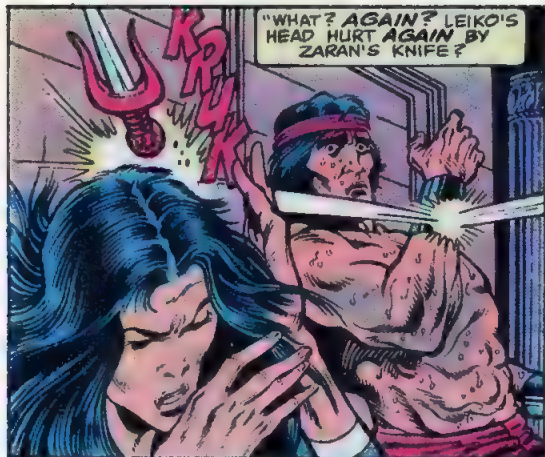
"... FLOATING
TOWARD ME IN
FROZEN TIME..."



"... LIKE A LAZULI
DREAM. I WANT TO
SMILE AT IT..."



"... BUT MY LIPS
WILL NOT MOVE.
INSTEAD, MY ARM
RISES AND TIME
SNAPS FAST
AGAIN."



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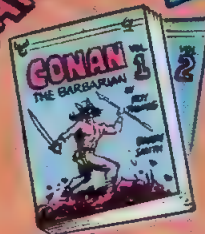
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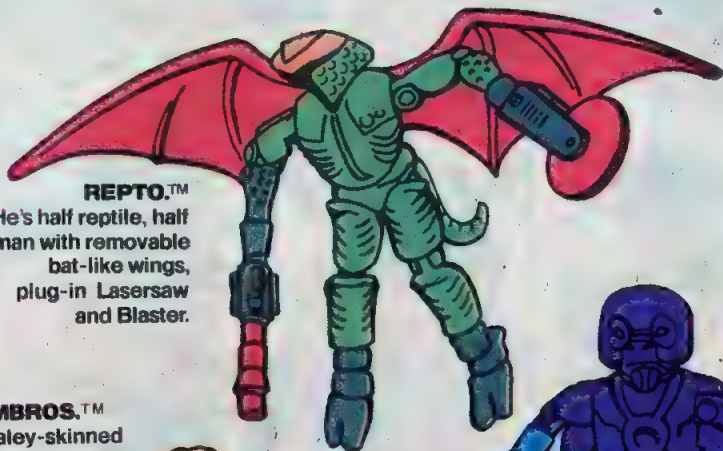
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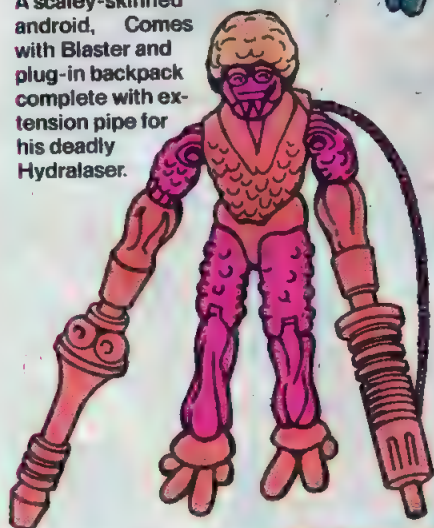
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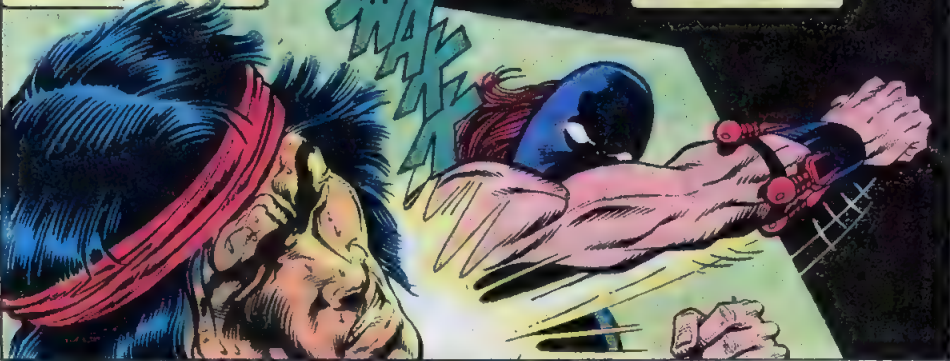
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"UHN! BUT NOT ZARAN--
MUST NOT EMBRACE
ZARAN!"

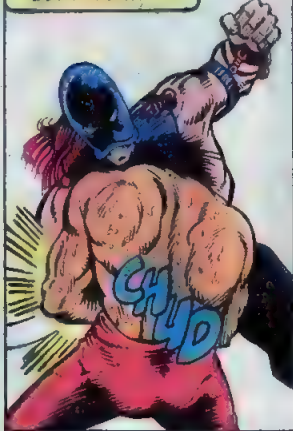
"FOR ZARAN WILL
ONLY TURN ON ME..."



"... BETRAYING ME IN
MY WEAKNESS..."



"... USING MY NEED
FOR SLEEP TO
BEAT ME..."



"... BEAT ME DOWN, INTO
SLEEP... FOREVER."



"HAVE I FALLEN? OR HAS
HE GROWN? HE IS LARGER
THAN LIFE, AND I THINK HE
GLOATS NOW..."



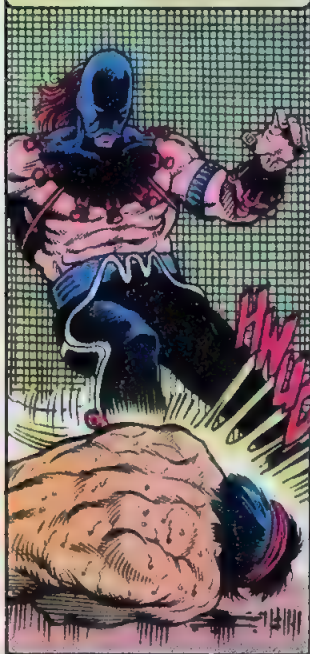
"BUT... LOOKING UP... HE IS
GONE AGAIN. THERE IS
NOTHING..."



"... NOTHING
BUT...
SLEEP..."



"...AND PAIN." BREATH GONE.
SPARKS OF COLOR. AND PAIN.

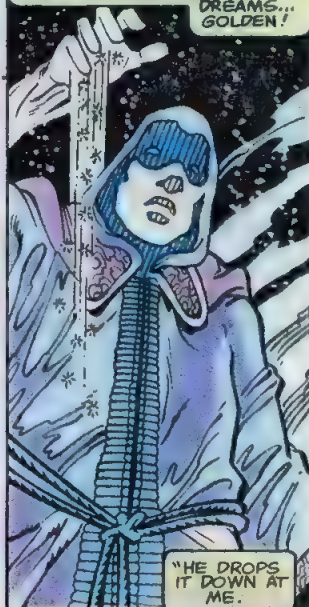


"MUST BE VERY SICK...IF
SLEEP BRINGS...PAIN.

"BUT NOW, IN THE
END, SLEEP WILL BE
GENTLE TO ME. I
CAN FEEL IT... I CAN
TRUST SLEEP NOW.



"SEE? HE RAISES HIS HAND,
HOLDING A SOFT BALL OF
DARKNESS WHICH BURSTS
INTO A SIFTING SPRINKLE...
THE TWINKLING DUST OF
DREAMS...
GOLDEN!



"HE DROPS
IT DOWN AT
ME.

"I WELCOME IT.

YES, SLEEP...
PLEASE GIVE ME
SLEEP... NOW.



LORD! YELLIN' MYSELF
HOARSE HE CAN'T EVEN
HEAR ME!

WAKE UP,
CHINAMAN!
YOU'RE GONNA
DIE!! HE'S
GONNA KILL
YOU!!

DON'T
YOU
UNDER-
STAND?!
IT'S
ZARAN!!

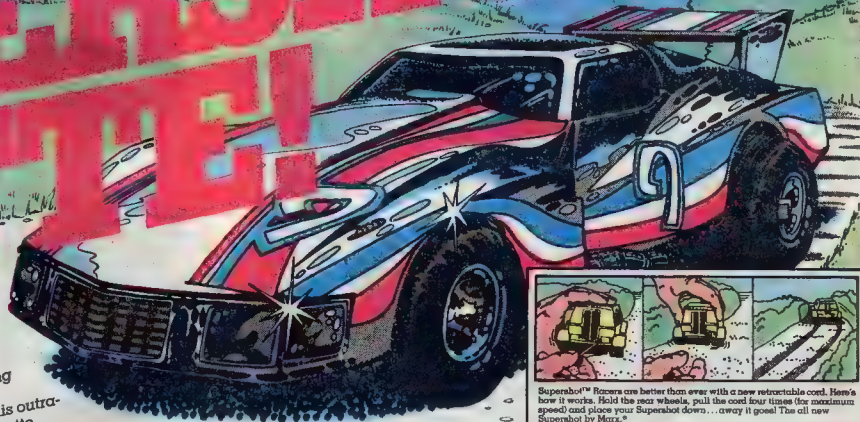


"ZARAN? YES...
ZARAN--



"...HOLDING THE GLITTER OF
SLEEP -- THE FINAL, ULTI-
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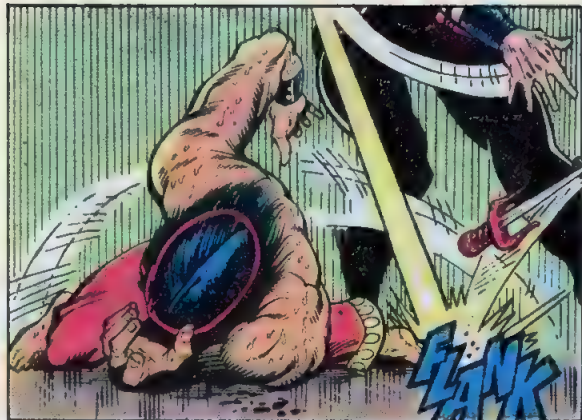
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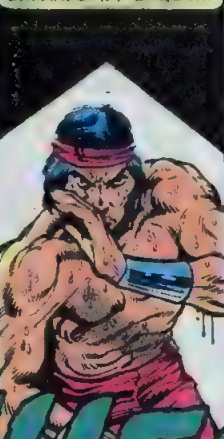
"I RISE, MY EYES BURNING, MY VEINS AFIRE, FUELED BY STREAMING ADRENALIN..."



"... MY TONGUE TASTING THE BITE OF SHEARED COPPER..."



"... MY NOSTRILS FLARED TO THE BRIMSTONE WHICH EXPANDS MY CHEST..."



"... MY FEVER RAGING, MY BODY HIGH AND READY TO BURST."



KI-YAA III LEE

"IT BURSTS AND SOMEHOW I LEAVE MY BODY... TO WATCH THIS STRANGE CREATURE, THIS MADDENED BEAST BLAZING FROM THE VERY HEART OF THE MARTIAL ARTS STATE OF AWARENESS."



"I KNOW HE CANNOT BE STOPPED."

"I THINK... HE IS ME."

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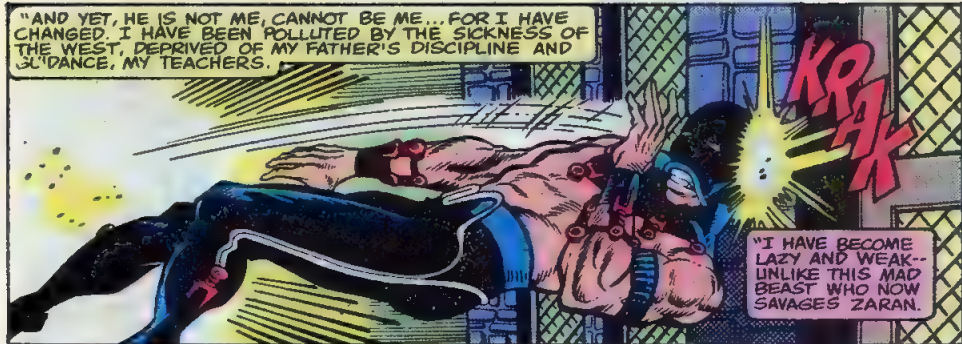
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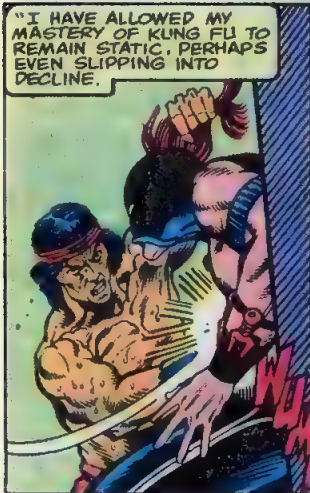
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| ☐ Dr. Strange | ☐ GHOST RIDER | ☐ Peter Parker | ☐ Thor |

"AND YET, HE IS NOT ME, CANNOT BE ME... FOR I HAVE CHANGED. I HAVE BEEN POLLUTED BY THE SICKNESS OF THE WEST, DEPRIVED OF MY FATHER'S DISCIPLINE AND GUIDANCE, MY TEACHERS."



"I HAVE BECOME LAZY AND WEAK-- UNLIKE THIS MAD BEAST WHO NOW SAVAGES ZARAN."

"I HAVE ALLOWED MY MASTERY OF KUNG FU TO REMAIN STATIC, PERHAPS EVEN SLIPPING INTO DECLINE."



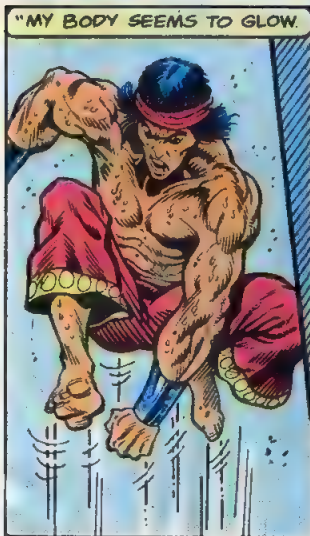
"THERE HAS BEEN TOO LITTLE RISING AND ADVANCING OF LATE... BUT NOW, IT CHANGES."



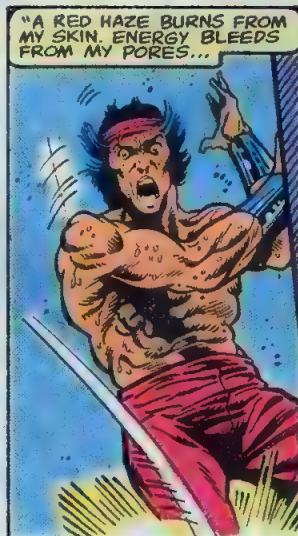
"THE MAD THING WHICH IS ME BRISTLES WITH INTENSITY-- MANIACAL, ALMOST BESTIAL."



"MY BODY SEEMS TO GLOW."



"A RED HAZE BURNS FROM MY SKIN, ENERGY BLEEDS FROM MY PORES..."



"... AND I AM WILD, BUT WAIT-- I WILL ALSO BE CUNNING."



"I WILL STOP NOW-- BECAUSE MY ENEMY HAS FALLEN."



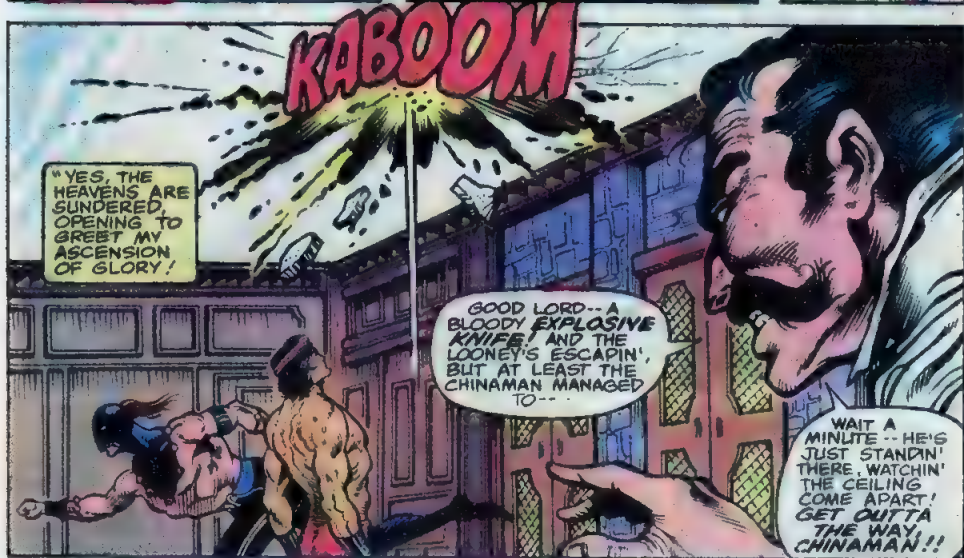
"AND SLEEP... SLEEPS. I HAVE CONQUERED HIM. CONQUERED SLEEP ... MOVING BEYOND DEATH... INTO A NEW PLANE EVEN BEYOND LIFE. I AM HEIR TO THE REALM OF SLEEP...



"... AND I AM AWAKE... AWAKE IN SLEEP! AND, TRIUMPHANT, I SHALL--



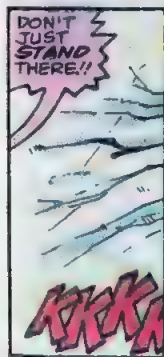
"-- CLIMB TO THE HEAVENS!



"YES, THE HEAVENS ARE SUNDERED, OPENING TO GREET MY ASCENSION OF GLORY!

GOOD LORD-- A BLOODY EXPLOSIVE KNUCKLE AND THE LOONEY'S ESCAPIN'! BUT AT LEAST THE CHINAMAN MANAGED TO--

WAIT A MINUTE -- HE'S JUST STANDIN' THERE, WATCHIN' THE CEILING COME APART! GET OUTTA THE WAY, CHINAMAN!!

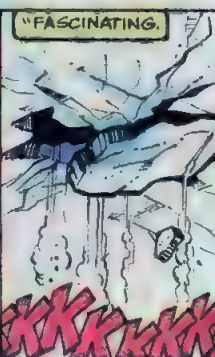


DON'T JUST STAND THERE!!

KKKK



"THE FALL OF SLEEP...

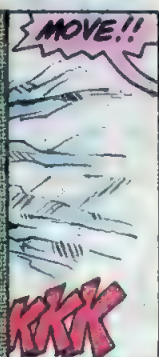


"FASCINATING

KKKK KKKK

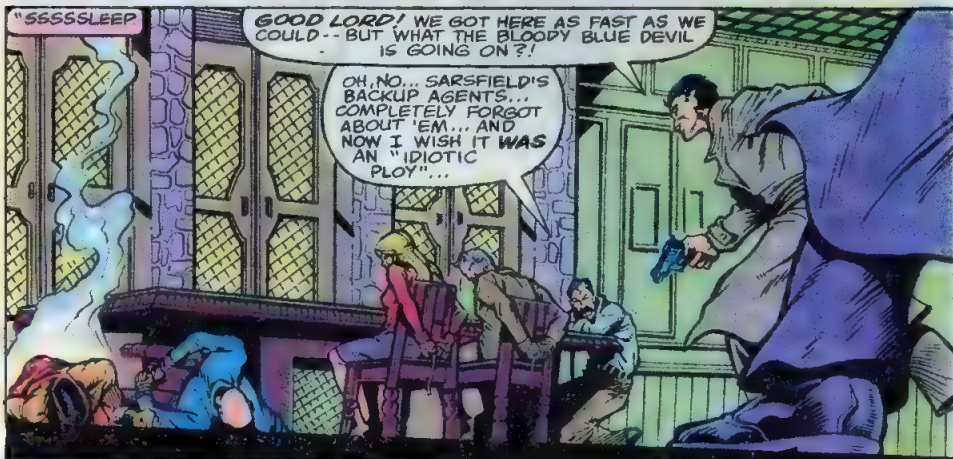
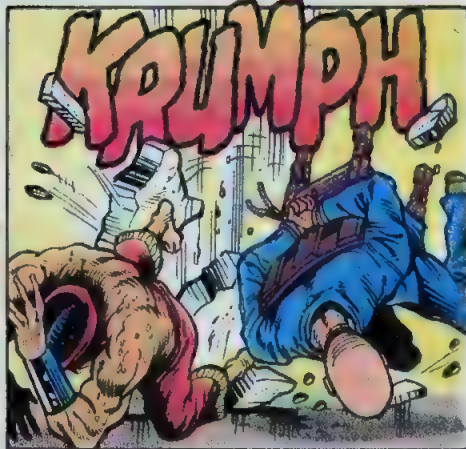
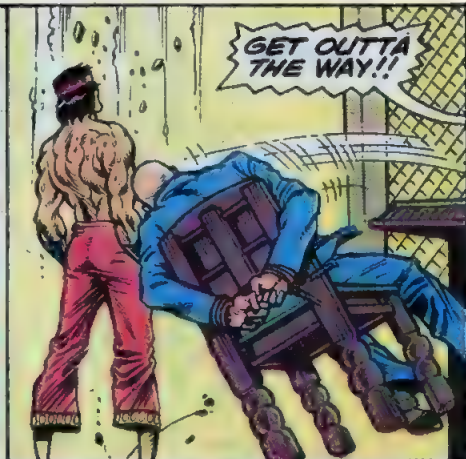
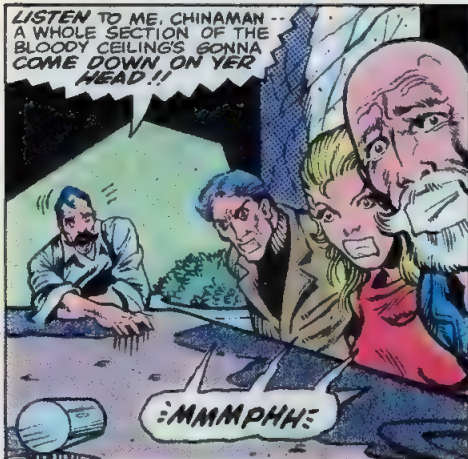


"FALLING... SLEEP



MOVE!!

KKKK



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inches, confidence.

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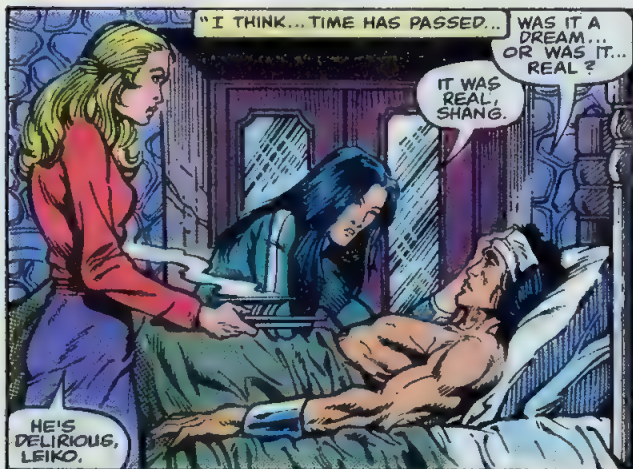
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"I THINK... TIME HAS PASSED..."

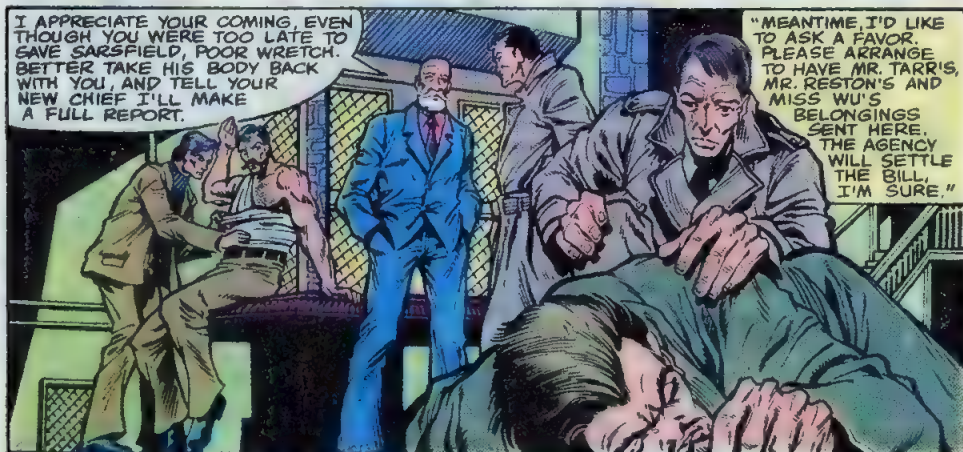
WAS IT A DREAM...
OR WAS IT...
REAL?

IT WAS
REAL,
SHANG.

HE'S
DELICIOUS,
LEIKO.

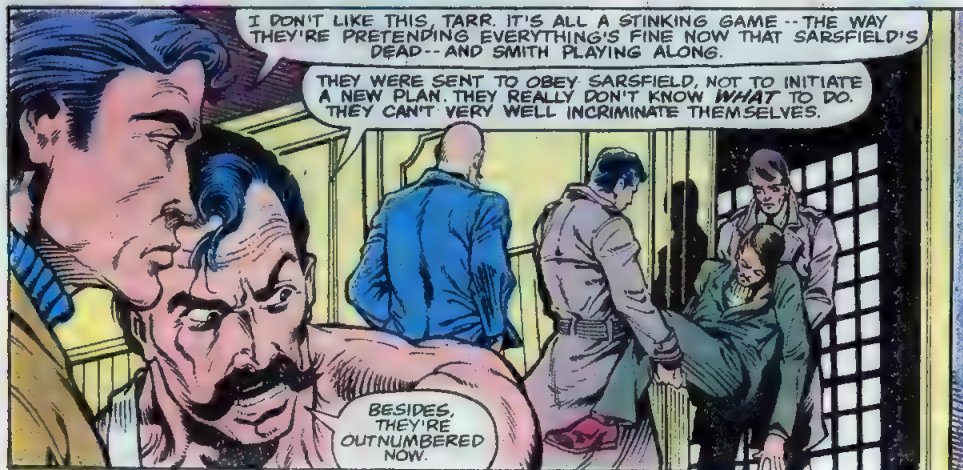


REAL? WARM IN
HERE... OR IS IT...
COLD?



I APPRECIATE YOUR COMING, EVEN
THOUGH YOU WERE TOO LATE TO
SAVE SARSFIELD, POOR WRETCH.
BETTER TAKE HIS BODY BACK
WITH YOU, AND TELL YOUR
NEW CHIEF I'LL MAKE
A FULL REPORT.

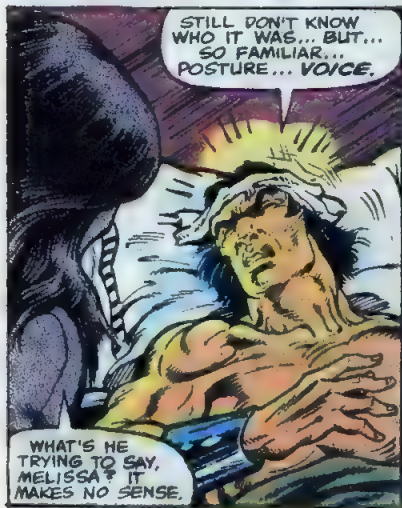
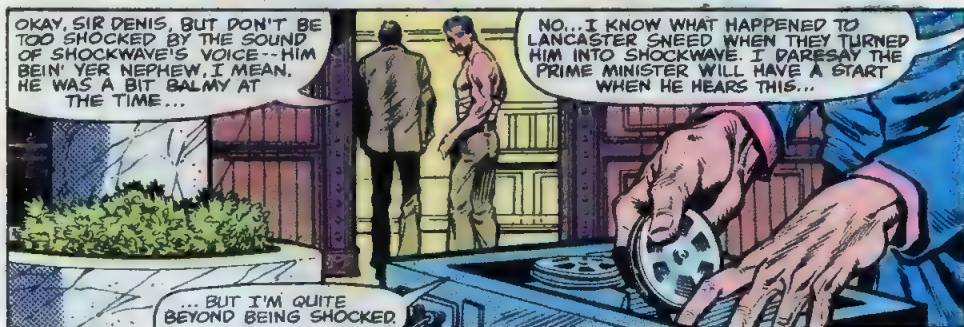
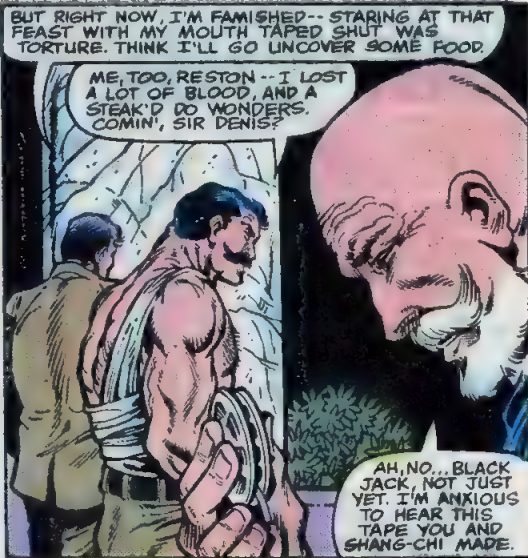
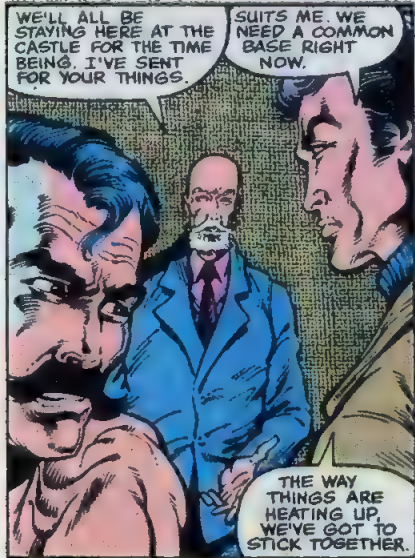
"MEANTIME, I'D LIKE
TO ASK A FAVOR.
PLEASE ARRANGE
TO HAVE MR. TARR'S,
MR. RESTON'S AND
MISS WU'S
BELONGINGS
SENT HERE.
THE AGENCY
WILL SETTLE
THE BILL,
I'M SURE."



I DON'T LIKE THIS, TARR. IT'S ALL A STINKING GAME -- THE WAY
THEY'RE PRETENDING EVERYTHING'S FINE NOW THAT SARSFIELD'S
DEAD -- AND SMITH PLAYING ALONG.

THEY WERE SENT TO OBEY SARSFIELD, NOT TO INITIATE
A NEW PLAN. THEY REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THEY CAN'T VERY WELL INCRIMINATE THEMSELVES.

BESIDES,
THEY'RE
OUTNUMBERED
NOW.



BULLPEN BULLETINS

THE MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE YEAR!

ITEM! Talk about your close calls! A few weeks ago, a boodle of bullpeners gathered at the home of Ramblin' Roger and Devilish Dickie McKenzie for coffee, cards and cupcakes. As you might expect, everyone had a wild and crazy time...but the evening was very nearly marred by tragedy! The party was winding down when Mary Wolfman set out in his Pinto for his house in Flushing. He had only gone twenty or so blocks when suddenly his car was slammed from behind while making a turn! The poor Pinto was instantly twisted into a total wreck! Somehow, though, Mary emerged from the disaster, shaken, but without serious injury, and miraculously, the other driver was also unhurt. We're all very happy that only the cars were crunched, but for Michele Wolfman, baby Jessica, all of us here in the Bullpen, and Mary's trillion or so fans, it was a bit too close for comfort!



ITEM! Speaking of Marvelous Mary, we got a treat for you Wolfmanites, Fantastic Four freaks and literature lovers! It's *Doomsday*, the novel, featuring an all-new epic starring the fabulous FF, written by, yep, our own Mr. Wolfman! Mary isn't talking much about what's inside the book, and whenever we ask him, he just puts on his big, smug read-it-and-see grin. We've learned from past experience not to doubt the significance of that grin, so we'd humbly advise you to buy a copy, and if you can bear to stop feasting your eyes on the gorgeous Bob Larkin cover painting, read it. After you're finished, and your molecules have settled, get ready for another plunge into adventure, with Captain America in his own novel, entitled *Holocaust for Hire*! This stunning tale is by Joseph Silva, who did such a bang-up job on the first Hulk novel a while back, but Mary's involved in this one too, as one of the co-editors (that guy is everywhere!). Should we mention that Dave Cockrum painted the cover? Or will that cause riots at the bookstores as his Legion of fans fight over the last few copies? Oh, well...just follow the crowd to wherever Simon & Schuster Pocket Books are sold and take a mere \$1.75 with you for each novel, friends. And keep

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Face front, frantic ones! This is it! I promised to clue you in about our top-secret Project X, and far be it from me to hold out on the hallowed hordes of Marveldom Assembled! But first, a little background...

Remember how we've often discussed the fact that comicbooks are the most maligned members of the media world? For years your Marvel Bullpen has been trying to bring them the recognition and acclaim they so richly deserve. We've longed to produce a comicbook that would take the public by storm; a masterpiece to thrill our devotees and detractors alike. We're talking about a true work of art, a colossal collection of the finest in story and illustration, printed on superb paper, with colors so vivid they're almost on fire! It would be a visual blast, a feast for the eyes, presenting the greatest talents from every nation on earth as well as the most gifted legend-makers Marvel has to offer! It would be higher-priced, but still the bargain of the century!

Okay! We're gonna do it! Even as I write these history-making words, the mightiest comicbook bullpen of all time is excitedly preparing, perfecting, and producing the most unbelievably spectacular first issue of a fantasy comicbook you've ever dreamed possible! You'll notice I keep calling it a comicbook—for it is a comicbook—but it's the ultimate comicbook—the version we've

been fated to bring you since Marvel began! Yes, this is the project for which Marvel was surely destined—the creation that will change the image of comicbooks for all time to come!

The title? ODYSSEY! Remember it! ODYSSEY! "A prolonged voyage. An intellectual or spiritual quest!" ODYSSEY! A senses-staggering journey into the most dazzling worlds of unbridled imagination! ODYSSEY! An awesome, eye-filling explosion of high-tension excitement that'll leave you breathless! ODYSSEY! In case you haven't guessed, we're subtly suggesting that thou shalt not miss the first, fabulous, limited-edition issue—of—what's that name again?—oh yeah! ODYSSEY!

Now look, you know I try to avoid too much huckstering in this cultural little column of mine; but this isn't an ordinary sales pitch, honest! I wouldn't be fair to you if I didn't alert you to the most dynamically different magazine we've ever produced; the magazine which is certain to be a new milestone in the history of comics—the most talked-about, sought-after publication of the decade!

Hey, it's on the drawing board right now! We'll give you the final details next ish. ODYSSEY! Comics will never be the same again!

Excelsior!

Stan

your guard up, willya? We warned you!

ITEM! Every now and then there comes a landmark in the ever unfolding modern mythology that is the Marvel Universe—MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #54 is one of them. The story is a powerful one, scripted by Ralph Macchio and Mark Gruenwald, and the art, by John Byrne and Joe Sinnott, is superb. What separates this from other equally beautiful works, however, is that in this issue a major Marvel character—a hero—dies! Do not miss it!

ITEM! We're becoming more and more impressed with the scripting of one Mary Jo Duffy, and from the mail we've read, you are too! That's not news, unless you've been on Tierra del Fuego for the last six months. The news is that with a little help from another rising star, Trevor von Eeden, long time superstar, Frank Springer, and a few other fabulous folks, MJ has concocted issue #58 of POWER MAN/IRON FIST, and it's merely terrific! Wait'll you meet El Águila, the most sensa-

tional super foe to make the scene in ages. His name is Spanish, of course, and it means "The Eagle." A certain delightful artist is responsible for brainstorming, designing, and suggesting El Águila to Mary Jo — and we'll give a no-prize to the first ten readers who recognize his distinctive approach and zip a postcard off to us correctly identifying him! Go to it, gang! Grab your copy before they're all gone!

ITEM! The seventeenth issue of SPIDER-WOMAN is on sale now, and it features a new character who...well, all we can say is, you don't know weird till you've seen the Waxman!

ITEM! And while we're talking about new characters, we hasten to introduce the two newest characters in the Bullpen, namely Lovely Linda Florio, sparkling secretary and Rapid Ron Zalme, peerless production person! Welcome aboard, troops!

ITEM! Just a reminder—be careful making those left-hand turns! We want to see you all in thirty. And bring your friends!

THE ALL NEW FANTASTIC FOUR IS HERE!

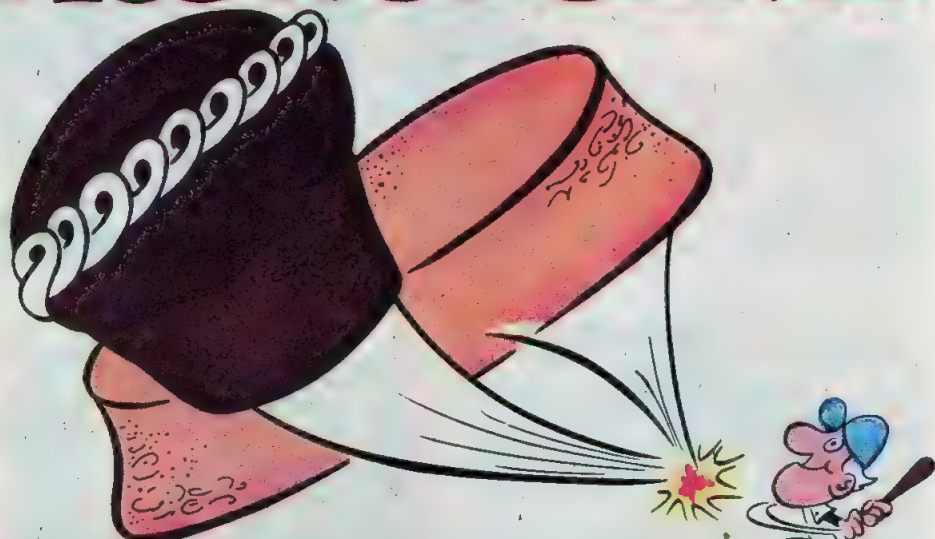
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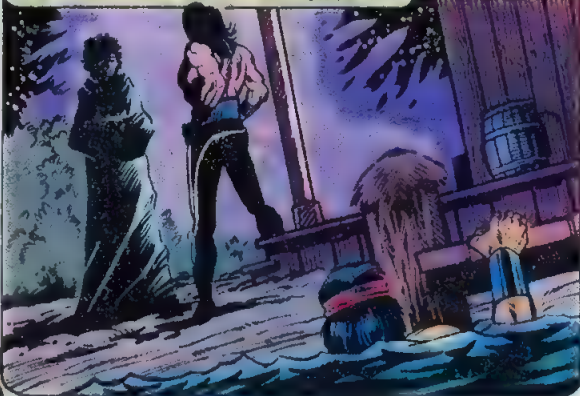
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FIGURE WAS... SO FAMILIAR... CERTAIN I... I **KNEW** THAT FIGURE... THAT VOICE...



"...THE ONE WHO VISITED ZARAN'S LODGE... THEN LEFT AFTER A SHORT WHILE... WHILE I WAITED IN THE COLD WATER... BEFORE I WENT IN TO FACE ZARAN... TO GET THE TAPE... BUT WHO? WHO WAS IT?"



AS YOU KNOW, AN OLD TAPE IS **ERASED** WHEN A NEW RECORDING IS MADE OVER IT.



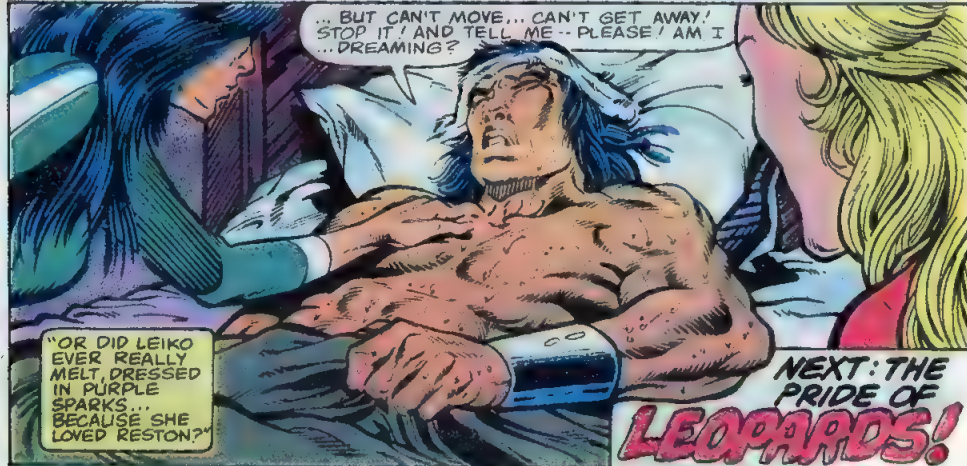
LORD HELP US, BUT THAT VOICE--! IT... IT BELONGS TO--

"--**FAN LO SUEE, THE DAUGHTER OF FU MANCHU!**"



"...VOICE SO FAMILIAR... CHASING ME... HAUNTING ME FROM THE PAST... RUNNING... MUST ESCAPE... LESS MOVING..."

"... BUT CAN'T MOVE... CAN'T GET AWAY! STOP IT! AND TELL ME-- PLEASE! AM I... DREAMING?"



"OR DID LEIKO EVER REALLY MELT, DRESSED IN PURPLE SPARKS... BECAUSE SHE LOVED RESTON?"

NEXT: THE PRIDE OF **LEOPARDS!**

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP

575 Madison Avenue

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ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gone from our storyline, but hardly departed from our zany letters page, it's Brynocki Time, People—so let's get crazy!

Dear Brynocki-ites:

MASTER OF KUNG FU #74 is one of the best comic books I've ever read, and #72 and 73 weren't bad either! Not only do I love Shockwave, Brynocki, and all the other nesties of Mordillo Isle, but the way Doug Moench uses them in the storyline is perfectly ingenious.

While Doug is one of my favorite writers, and MOKF is his greatest achievement, I have never before written to Missives to the Master. Well, now's the time; I can remain silent no longer. Mordillo Isle is now by far my favorite place in all of Marveldom, and in this three-part story every one of the characterizations was superb. Brynocki was especially well developed, providing the frighteningly funny element which makes a bizarre story like this so excellent. I really can't praise this Mordillo Isle tale enough!

The art was excellent too. One thing I particularly liked, beyond the art itself, was the banner on the cover proclaiming: "BRYNOCKI TRIUMPHANT!" Beautiful, folks, just beautiful. And by the way, give my regards to the goofy little fella.

Douglas Mao

65-30 38 Ave.

Woodside, NY 11377

We tried, Doug, we really tried. But Brynocki's only comment was a metelically surly: "Nuts to you, Meat!"

Ave, Brynocki! Te moritori salutant (or whatever)!

What can I say? I'm gonna hold off on a long letter until the conclusion of this story, but I've just got to comment on "Brynocki Triumphant!" The Cannon-Zapper, the thug-drones, the dragonfly, Brynocki himself—everything was...insane. Gloriously insane! Brynocki is the best character in the book at the moment, and that's what really makes me gawk in delight at MOKF #74. Brynocki is simply STUPENDOUS! And much as I dislike letters of sheer mindless praise, there's nothing else to say. Awk!!

Kurt Busiek

Boks 88, Lawrinson, 303 Stadium Place

Syracuse, NY 13210

Thanks, Kurt, and don't feel so guilty. We do like letters of sheer mindless praise...or haven't you noticed?

Dear Doug and Mike:

For quite some time, I avoided MASTER OF KUNG FU because I thought it was just another example of a fad gone quite mad. Fandom was so excited about the book, though, that I finally bought one of the issues numbered in the early 60's. Naturally, I was quite impressed and began haunting the back issue stores in search of the complete run. I haven't succeeded in filling out the collection yet (and I may be a pauper by the time I do; do you know what those Moench/Gulacy issues are selling for?), but what I have read has tremendously impressed me. Picking up the Moench/Zeck issues has been easier and less expensive; but hardly less enjoyable.

Issue #74 continues my enjoyment. Mike's art, though not quite up to the standards of his issues immediately preceding this one, was still more than competent. He has a nice way of building suspense with those suddenly appearing white mime faces, and I can tell he's having a lot of fun with Brynocki's (and Doug's, I suspect) endlessly changing costumes. So am I.

The story was almost all action and it's usually hard for any writer to shine in an action story, but Doug Moench kept us

moving and thoroughly interested while granting Mike most of the glory. Considering issue #71 had almost no action (and therefore belonged chiefly to Doug), it seems things have a way of evening out in the end. Keep plugging, gang!

Thomas J. Owens

4550 N. Flowing Wells #115

Tucson, AZ 85705

Dear Kung Fu Folks,

Doug Moench is writing some pretty weird stories these days. Last month, in CAPTAIN MARVEL #60, he had UFOs landing in Kentucky while Mar-Vell was back on Titan getting drugged by a goat-footed creature of dubious origin and, later, being threatened by a ravishing woman with two predatory things on a leash. And now along comes MOKF #73 with its pale snail-riding elves, stupidly grinning and fire-breathing dragon, hideous skull-faced mountain lair which opens to the code-words "open sesame," and, last but not least, its wise-cracking caterpillar which is actually a land-rover in disguise, or vice-versa. The temptation is to say: "I don't know what you're on, Doug, but get in touch with Dizzy Gillespie's band." But I somehow doubt that the talented Mr. Moench hallucinated any of this stuff prior to putting it down on paper; more likely, he started out with the premise of everything going berserk on Mordillo Isle and, using only his marvelous imagination, followed it up all the way. Need I add that the results were as entertaining as they were bizarre? However, the strange spectacle of Shang-Chi and Leiko going up against the products of Mordillo's sick sense of humor did tend to obscure Doug's accomplishment insofar as weaving a complex but readily understandable narrative is concerned. He continues finding ways to involve the entire supporting cast in the storyline in progress, making MOKF the most fully realized book on the market in its portrayal of a closely knit group fighting a common foe. Whether it's Fu Manchu or War-Yore or Kogar or Shockwave and Brynocki, each and every member of the MOKF cast has his or her part in defeating the villains. In "Prisoners of the Crown," it was Chi and Leiko who were closest to the hub of things, but Smith and Reston and Miss Greville still enjoyed their share of the spotlight. The latter, in fact, was featured in the best-written, most down-to-earth scene of the entire story, which found her face-to-face with abductors she just couldn't bring herself to shoot, not even in obvious self-defense.

Much of #73's weird appeal was due to the way Mike Zeck handled the unusual visuals. Drawn in an appropriately cartoonish manner, the menaces all looked ludicrous, but deliberately so like shooting gallery targets designed to return fire, catching the intended victim about as offguard as he could be. Overall, Mike's storytelling is showing marked improvement, and his depiction of Shockwave is quite impressive. One hopes the same polish and attention to detail will begin to reflect itself in the stars of this book as well. Zeck doesn't lack ability; the Dr. Doom/Prime-Mover story proved that. What he may lack is experience, a quality which time and effort are sure to provide.

Ed Via

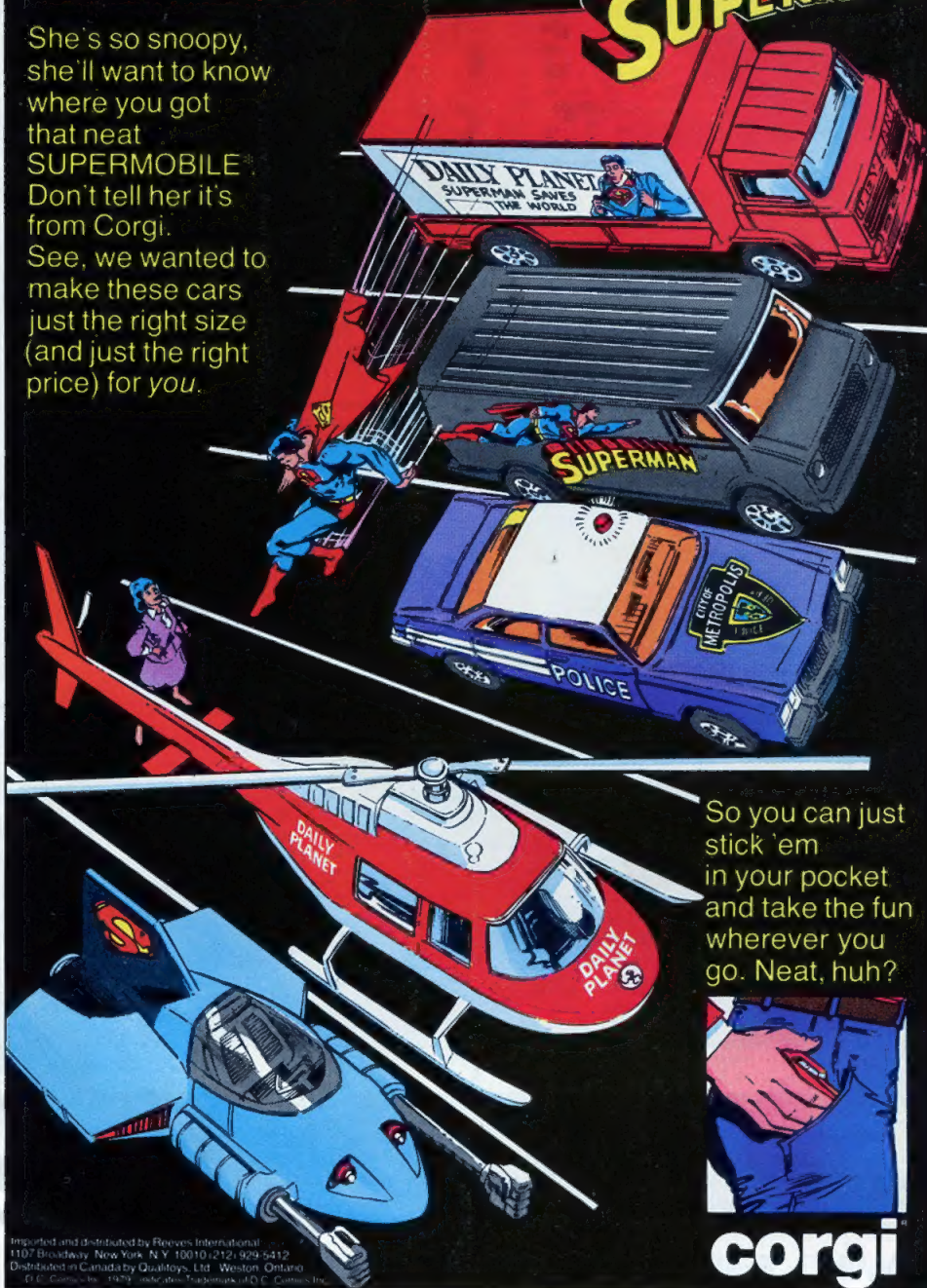
1648 Dean Rd.

Roanoke, VA 24018

We're glad everyone enjoyed the lunacy, but in response to Mr. Via's snide innuendo, Doug snorts that he's "fright as a sparrow!" Next issue things are somewhat less looney, but no less exciting or hectic as we gear up for the long-awaited return of a certain insidious "Devil Doctor" — or do we? Until we all find out, be good.

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